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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Morris Earns STARS Gold 2.0 Rating for Sustainability Achievements

Summary: Morris earned the rating in recognition of its sustainability achievements.

MORRIS, Minnesota (September 2, 2015)—[The University of Minnesota, Morris has earned a STARS Gold 2.0 Rating](#) from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), in recognition of its sustainability achievements. STARS, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, measures and encourages sustainability in all aspects of higher education.

This rating is only the most recent instance of Morris's recognition by AASHE. The campus registered as a charter participant in the STARS program in 2010 and achieved initial STARS gold certification in 2012. In 2013 Morris students received the AASHE Student Sustainability Leadership Award. Chancellor Jacqueline R. Johnson served as AASHE board chair for 2014.

"We are very proud to have achieved a STARS Rating for our sustainability accomplishments," said Chancellor Johnson. "Our commitment to environmental sustainability is embedded in our philosophy and practice. This rating affirms that commitment."

With more than 650 participants on six continents, AASHE's STARS program is the most widely recognized framework in the world for publicly reporting comprehensive information related to a college or university's sustainability performance. Participants report achievements in four overall areas: operations, academics, engagement, and planning, administration.

"STARS was developed by the campus sustainability community to provide high standards for recognizing campus sustainability efforts," said AASHE Executive Director Meghan Fay Zahniser. "Morris has demonstrated a substantial commitment to sustainability by achieving a STARS Gold 2.0 Rating and is to be congratulated for their efforts."

Unlike other rating or ranking systems, this program is open to all institutions of higher education, and the criteria that determine a STARS Rating are transparent and accessible to anyone. Because STARS is a program based on credits earned, it allows for both internal comparisons as well as comparisons with similar institutions.

About AASHE

AASHE is an association of colleges and universities that are working to create a sustainable future. AASHE's mission is to empower higher education to lead the sustainability transformation. It provides resources, professional development and a network of support to enable institutions of higher education to model and advance sustainability in everything they do, from governance and operations to education and research. For more information about AASHE, visit aashe.org.

[View this story electronically.](#)

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.

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